

REMARKS

A Petition for Extension of Time is being concurrently filed with this Amendment. Thus, this Amendment is being timely filed.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Status of Claims

In the present Amendment, claims 1-31 and 35-43 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applications reserve the right to file a divisional or continuation application(s) directed to the canceled subject matter. Claims 32-34 are allowed.

Applicants note that claims 32 and 33 are amended to delete the value of "9.960" which appears twice in each claim. Also, the commas in the various values are replaced with periods. Applicants note the various Tables in the present specification showing such values (for instance, at pages 30-31). No new matter has been added.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 3 has been canceled herein. Thus, this rejection is rendered moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapleo et al. (U.S. 4,818,764) in view of Conte (U.S. 5,487,901). Claims 1-2 and 18-19 have been canceled herein. Thus, this rejection is rendered moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-6 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-8 of copending Application No. 10/974,675. Claims 1-6 have been canceled herein. Thus, this provisional rejection is rendered moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

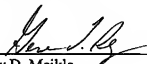
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 17, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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